

**To:** Erin Foresman/R9/USEPA/US@EPA[]  
**From:** "Nepstad, Michael G SPK"  
**Sent:** Thur 6/14/2012 3:14:35 PM  
**Subject:** FW: BDCP: Environmental, Fishing, etc. Coalition letter to DOI (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Can you get a copy of those "red flag memo's" that everyone is talking about?

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-----Original Message-----

From: Toland, Tanis J SPK

Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 3:44 PM

To: Axt, Josephine R SPL; Brostoff, William N SPN; Clark, Dennis G SPK; Conner, Craig S SPN; Cowan, Mark E SPK; Dadey, Kathleen A SPK; Dietl, Michael L SPK; Doak, David V SPN; Edwards, Douglas M SPK; Evoy-Mount, Matilda L SPK; Fowler, Cynthia J SPN (First Responders); Hedgecock, Neil SPN; Kendall, Thomas R SPN; Kidd, Robert D SPK; Koenigs, Robert L SPK; McAllister, Victoria L SPD; Mulvey, Brian M SPK; Nepstad, Michael G SPK; O'Halloran, Jaime L SPN; Paniccia, Al SPN; Robershotte, Paul J SPD; Schlenker, Brooke E SPK; Smith, Wayne S SPK; Tabatabai, Fari SPN; Takata, Eileen; Tejada, Cindy L SPD; Toland, Tanis J SPK; Turner, Claire Marie SPK; Olsen, Randy P SPK  
Subject: BDCP: Environmental, Fishing, etc. Coalition letter to DOI

In a June 12, 2012, letter to Secretary Salazar, 38 environmental, consumer, fishing, etc. groups expressed concern over the BDCP. The full letter is available at: <http://www.restorethedelta.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Ken-Salazar-LTR-RE-Cal-BDCP-Plus-Proposal.pdf>

The letter begins,

"The State of California is poised to make an enormous mistake, and potentially drag the Department of Interior and the American people along with it. California Secretary for

Natural Resources, John Laird, recently informed us in a May 24, 2012, briefing that the State intends to proceed with construction of a world-record-size tunnel or pipes capable of diverting 15,000 cubic feet per second from the Sacramento River - nearly all of its average freshwater flow. Diversion of this water, which is the most pristine source of water to the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary, would have devastating ecological impacts. Scientists within the Department of Interior have been pivotal in assessing these impacts and have raised "red-flag" warnings. This \$20 to \$50 billion dollar, highly controversial project will primarily serve to deliver Sacramento River water, through State and Federal pumps, to provide subsidized irrigation water to corporate agricultural operations of the western San Joaquin Valley."

The letter:

- \* references a May 24th briefing that "has stirred urgent concerns among fishing communities, farming communities, and conservation organization throughout the West Coast."

- \* references a "red flag memo" detailing the concerns of State and Federal fishery and wildlife agencies that the project would hasten the extinction of Central Valley salmon, Delta smelt, longfin smelt and other fish species.

- \* states that : "Two-thirds of existing Delta Estuary water exports serve corporate irrigators of the western San Joaquin Valley, which accounts for less than .5 percent of California's economy and population. Less than a third of the water goes to the urban areas that make up half of the state's population and economy."

- \* Urges the Secretary to:

- o "work to dissuade the State from pursuing this misguided policy;"

- o "uphold the Obama Administration's promise to ensure the Department of Interior's scientific integrity and not bow to political pressure;"

- o "not put the interests of South-of-Delta water contractors before the public and San Francisco Bay-Delta dependent farmers, fishermen, and local communities;" and
- o "reject these unsustainable water demands and their high public costs, and instead invest in more efficient use of our scarce water resources through cost-effective water conservation and recycling."

Letter Signed by:

Environmental Water Caucus

Sierra Club California

Friends of the River

Restore the Delta

California Water Impact Network

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

Southern California Watershed Alliance

Winnemem Wintu Tribe

Center for Biological Diversity

Food and Water Watch

Salmon Water Now

AquAlliance

Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Assoc.

Crab Boat Owners Association

Planning and Conservation League

Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

Others listed as supporting the letter:

Revive the San Joaquin

Sacramento Chapter, California Striped Bass Association

Fish Sniffer

Golden West Women Flyfishers

California Save Our Streams Council

Clean Water Action

California Striped Bass Assoc.

Butte Environmental Council

North Coast Rivers Alliance

Golden Gate Salmon Association

Resource Renewal Institute

Save The Bay

Federation of Fly Fishers

Lower Sherman Island Duck Hunters Association

Water4Fish

Berkeley Conservation Institute, Pure Fishing

California Outdoors

Institute for Fishery Resources

Southwest Council, Federation of Fly Fishers

The Golden Gate Fishermen's Association

Tanis

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